

REMARKS

This responds to the Final Office Action mailed on December 22, 2008.

Claims 1, 8, and 15-18 are amended, and no claims are cancelled or added; as a result, claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

§ 103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ishibashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,188) in view of Wood et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,922; hereinafter “Wood”).

Applicant repeats his previous response, and notes that amendments to the claims are supported by the specification as filed, which repeatedly ties the sounds to physical positions of elements displayed within the bounds of the display screen.

For example, p. 3, fourth paragraph recites:

Because modern computerized gaming machines often have such a wide variety of visual elements competing for the gamer’s attention, it is sometimes difficult for the gamer to see all that is presented. The present invention seeks in various embodiments to direct the gamer’s attention on the video screen by presenting position-indicating audio cues, increasing the odds that the player will be focused on certain game elements at certain times.

This same paragraph distinguishes this from using sounds to indicate game objects not on the display screen, reciting that “Alternate embodiments direct the player’s attention to mechanical game elements, top box displays, or other such game elements.”

Similarly, the example of Figure 3 illustrates in detail how various game objects displayed within the bounds of the display screen use sound that appears to come from the physical location of the object displayed within the bounds of the display screen. As described on p. 3, last paragraph, this can help focus the game player’s attention to certain locations on the video screen, increasing the odds that the player will be focused on game elements displayed in certain physical locations within the bounds of what the screen can display.

The accompanying claim amendments recite the limitation of using audio that appears to come from physical location on the display of the displayed game element to reflect the physical location within the bounds of the display screen of a desired game element on the display, more clearly distinguishing the pending claims from the prior art.

Reexamination and allowance of these pending claims 1-18 is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative at (612) 349-9581 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or deficiencies, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Mar-18-09

By



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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 18, 2009.

Zhakalazky M. Carrion

Name

Signature

